

Claims

[c1] What is claimed is:

An easy-to-manufacture protective saddle for a dumbbell, comprising:

a generally U-shaped member, including:

a curved element having a top surface, a base portion, and an inner end; and

a generally vertical element having an upper end and an interior end attached to said inner end of the U-shaped member;

wherein a non-marring surface for providing contact with a dumbbell to be placed on the saddle is located on said U-shaped member.

[c2] The saddle of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of means for attachment of the saddle to a frame located in said base portion.

[c3] The saddle of claim 1, wherein the non-marring surface is unitary in construction.

[c4] The saddle of claim 3, wherein the surface is injection molded onto the U-Shaped member.

- [c5] The saddle of claim 3, wherein the surface is sprayed upon the U-shaped member.
- [c6] The saddle of claim 2, wherein the means for attachment include an elongated attachment member located in a complementary void in said base portion.
- [c7] The saddle of claim 2, wherein each attachment member is adapted for use in a complementary cavity in said frame.
- [c8] The saddle of claim 6, wherein the means for attachment are securely connected to the base portion.
- [c9] The saddle of claim 1, wherein the vertical member further comprises a divot for accommodating a handle on said dumbbell.
- [c10] The saddle of claim 1, wherein the surface includes polyurethane.
- [c11] A method for forming a saddle for a dumbbell, comprising the steps of:
 - forming a core having a generally U-shaped member, having:
 - a curved element having a top surface, a base portion, and an inner end; and
 - a generally vertical element having an upper end and an

interior end attached to said inner end of the U-shaped member; and
a plurality of voids located through the base portion;
placing means for attachment through the voids whereby
means for attachment extend below the base;
forming a non-marring surface for providing contact
with a dumbbell to be placed on the saddle located at
least on a top portion of the U-shaped member and on
the interior end of the vertical element.

- [c12] The method of claim 11, wherein the step of forming comprises the steps of:
placing the core at least partially within a mold; and
placing a substance which forms a non-marring surface into the mold and around the core, whereby at least a portion of the means for attachment is not covered in the substance.
- [c13] The method of claim 11, wherein the means for attachment are securely connected to the base portion before the core is placed in a mold.
- [c14] The method of claim 13, wherein the means for attachment comprise a threaded bolt.
- [c15] The method of claim 11, wherein the substance is a rubber that adheres to the core.

- [c16] An easy-to-manufacture frame for a plurality of dumbbells, comprising:
 - a plurality of pairs of saddles oriented to accommodate each weight on a dumbbell, each saddle comprising:
 - a generally U-shaped member, including:
 - a curved element having a top surface, a base portion, and an inner end; and
 - a vertical element having an upper end and an interior end attached to said inner end of the U-shaped member; wherein a non-marring surface for providing contact with a dumbbell to be placed on the saddle is located on said U-shaped member.
- [c17] The frame of claim 16, further comprising a plurality of means for attachment of the saddle to a frame located in said base portion.
- [c18] The frame of claim 16, wherein said frame comprises complementary holes for the means for attachment.